

XMAS CAROLS DRAW THROUGHS

Crowds Start Gathering About
Treasury Steps for Songs
Ahead of Time.

BIGGEST COMMUNITY FETE

Thousands Ready to Take Part
in Celebrations All Over
City Today.

Long before 3 o'clock this afternoon crowds began to gather about the Treasury steps to hear what probably is the largest chorus ever gathered in Washington sing Christmas carols.

Surpassing in its scope anything hitherto attempted in the way of a community celebration of a holiday in Washington, this event brought together the daughter of the President of the United States, choirs of thirty churches, thousands of school children, 400 Girl Scouts, and hundreds of other individuals.

Marine Band to Play.
Uncle Sam's banner musical organization, the United States Marine Band, was assigned by Maj. Gen. George Barnett, commandant of the corps, to furnish the orchestral accompaniment.

Before the song program the Marine Band played as the crowd gathered. The crowd was directed and handled by a squad of policemen, according to plans Major Pullman and Col. W. W. Hart, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, had worked out together.

Preliminary Program.
The Marine Band's preliminary program included "Celeste," by Camber, and "America First," by Loeys, Arthur S. Whitcomb, cornet soloist, played "Cantique de Noel," by Adams. On the vocal program were only old familiar carols, such as those sung by the waits in earlier Christmas celebrations. These carols included "Joy to the World," "Hark! The Angels Sing," "While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks," and "Silent Night, Holy Night."

But the songs on the Treasury steps marked only the beginning of the program for reviving old time Christmas carols.

Singers Go to Hospitals.
Automobiles were waiting to take groups of the singers to hospitals and other institutions of the city where they were to sing Christmas carols, and other groups went to march through the streets singing Yuletide songs.

One picturesque feature of the singing were the 400 Girl Scouts, under Miss Katherine Harlow, who assembled in front of the Riggs Bank early, bearing their banner, and marched to their station amid the great chorus.

The chorus was directed by Dr. Hamlin E. Cogswell, in charge of music in the public schools. Miss Margaret Wilson sang with the chorus.

Scouts Do Not Sing.
The 1,500 Boy Scouts did not sing; they patrolled the crowd, distributing leaflets and programs. They were generally by Scoutmaster Herbert Bonnette.

Besides the church choirs, Girl Scouts, and the school children, the chorus included groups from private schools, colleges, social centers, Sunday schools, and choral societies. The melodies sung were all familiar ones, and the words were furnished by the choruses on the leaflets distributed by the Boy Scouts.

Miss Gardner in Charge.
Miss Ella Gardner, of the District playground department, was in charge of the transportation arrangements for the groups of singers who were to be taken to hospitals. Many of these were to go on foot, singing as they went.

Troop 16, Girl Scouts, under Miss Ruth Brown, was busy this morning, distributing its quota of presents to the children of the city who otherwise might have missed out on a call from Santa Claus. The other troops gathered yesterday at Girl Scout headquarters for this distribution.

Junior League Ready.
Members of the Junior League had the gifts they were to give to children in all the city's hospitals ready for early distribution tomorrow.

According to German custom the German embassy will hold its festive tonight.

BRITISH TARS ASKED NOT TO CELEBRATE

Admiralty Requests All at Sea
to Refrain From Fetes
Because of War.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—For the first time in the British mercantile marine for a hundred years, there will be no Christmas celebrations aboard British ships tomorrow.

This request, made by the British admiralty, applies to passengers and crews, and is actuated by sympathy for the men at the front.

The Adriatic with 100 passengers aboard, which sailed last night, had no holiday decorations. There will be no plum duff for the crew Christmas day, and no wine for the officers.

It is probable that the crews of tramp steamships and sailing ships, which have not been in a British port to receive the admiralty request, will get a Christmas dinner.

Officially the admiralty said they believed it was part of the new government's policy to make every Briton at home and abroad feel the seriousness of the struggle.

D. C. MILITIAMAN IS SHOT ON BORDER

R. L. Wellingham, of Third Infantry, Injured Trying to
Compose Quarrel.

SAN ANTONIO, Dec. 24.—While in company with several militiamen who became involved in a quarrel with policemen here last night, Robert L. Wellingham, a member of the Third Infantry, District National Guard, was shot and seriously wounded.

Wellingham was endeavoring to quiet his noisy comrades, when the police arrived. The militiamen, some of whom were riotously celebrating their Christmas leave in town, drew their guns, and a lively fight began, which ended in seriously wounding Wellingham and one of the policemen.

Both are reported in a critical condition today.

Wellingham, whose parents live at 100 Bryant street northwest, Washington, was employed as a motorman by the Washington Railway and Electric Company at the time of the militia's being called into Federal service.

Shortly after the encampment of the District contingent, near Fort Myer he gave up his position and enlisted as a private in Company H, Third Infantry. He is twenty-eight years old.

TRAFFIC RUSH SETS MARK

Holiday Crowds at Union Station
Resemble Inauguration.

Christmas traffic on the railroads entering Washington is unprecedented. Several times in the past twenty-four hours, crowds of incoming and outgoing passengers at Union Station reached almost inauguration proportions.

In addition the railroads are struggling with the heaviest mail, express and freight business in the history of the country, and with storms that have delayed practically all schedules.

Trains entering and leaving Union Station are late, running from six to twelve hours behind schedule.

The greatest passenger rush at Union Station came late last night. It has gradually diminished throughout the day. Thousands thronged the station last night, most of them homeward bound for Christmas.

Several hundred department employees left Washington to spend Christmas at home, and much of the usually large transient population here left last night or this morning.

STRUGGLE HIGH IN AIR

Men Battling on Window Sill on
Ninth Floor Saved.

GERMANS FLEE BRITISH CAMPS

Lawyer Reveals System by
Which Slackers Employ "Un-
derground Route."

COME ON SHIPS AS STOKERS

Disclosure Made When Court Is
Asked to Free Man
From Brig.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—An attempt to get William Farrell, a coal trimmer on the Adriatic, out of irons and the ship's brig yesterday by means of a writ of habeas corpus brought to light an "underground railroad" by which Englishmen have been evading military service and escaping to the United States. Farrell himself is said to be a German who escaped from a camp where interned prisoners are confined.

With the attempt the coal trimmer assumed the mystery of the man in the iron mask. For days he was manacled and immured within sound of the teeming traffic of the Chelsea piers, and yesterday his friends tried to release him with the aid of the courts. They failed, and when the Adriatic sailed last night Farrell was still imprisoned on board.

Identify a Secret.
Who Farrell is, why he is confined, who his friends are and how they learned of his predicament are questions that the British admiralty and the radicals who gather at the Modern-Farmer School might be able to answer. Farrell's skipper says that he is a coal heaver who threatened not to return if he got shore leave and consequently was clapped in irons.

Harry Weinberger, an attorney who tried to free Farrell on a writ, and others who evinced a sudden interest in the case, said that the coal trimmer was held as a German free-lance journalist and former soldier who had escaped from a detention camp near Liverpool.

Applies for Writ.
Weinberger popped the Farrell question in the United States district court yesterday by applying to Judge Mayer for a writ, directing the captain and officers of the Adriatic to produce forthwith the person of William Farrell, also known as Kerhahn.

The writ was granted on the petition of Charles Evans, another coal trimmer on the Adriatic and a British subject.

Always on the Spot.
The officers were always on the spot. Mr. Hart, of Lansburg & Bro., told that you could never find an officer when you wanted one. We never had one emergency but a policeman was on the job in a few seconds.

Mr. Parsons, who is in charge of the police, said that the "flying squad" had been an invaluable safeguard.

"It operated quietly, and efficiently," he said. "We can say nothing in too high praise of their work. They were shifted from store to store in such a way that they were not known to would-be offenders, and at the same time knew the habits of shoplifters and the lay of the store in such a way that they were not detected."

The following stores were represented at headquarters this morning: Woodward & Lothrop, Palais Royal, Kresge & Co., H. B. Post, J. B. Gurnick, Leverson's, Frank R. Jellett, S. Kann, Sons & Co., Lansburg & Bro., McCrory's Five and Ten, Woolworth's Five and Ten, and Goldenberg & Co.

Members of Squad.
Detective Sgt. Charles A. Evans, who has charge of the ship-lifting squad, said today he had had words of commendation from merchants all over the business district. The members of the squad are Policemen McKim and Davis, of the Tenth precinct; Capt. H. Butt, of the Third precinct; Gorgins and Williams, of the First, and Brown, of the Sixth, and Policemen Farling and Clark.

At the conclusion of the identification work today Detective Evans was presented with silver medals by the members of the squad who have worked under him during the past few weeks. The safe, which was lined with gold, was presented as a testimonial "of the manner in which he directed the work and treated the members of the squad."

FRENCH CONDEMN WOMEN

Berlin Press Bureau Says Two Are
to Be Shot.

BERLIN (via Saville wireless), Dec. 24.—Two more women have been sentenced to death by French court-martial, the press bureau asserts.

One is named Busaya, born in Calais of a German mother and a Luxemburg father; the other is a widow named Tichely, of Swiss nationality. Both are accused of informing Germany as to French army operations. Both will probably be shot, the press bureau concluded.

"The French apparently hold the record in sentencing and shooting women," the statement declared.

PRESIDENT AT CHURCH

President and Mrs. Wilson attended services at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church today. This was the church attended by Mrs. Wilson before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Sayre and Mrs. Anne Cochran, who are here to spend Christmas at the White House, accompanied the President and Mrs. Wilson.

LOOK OVER LOOT OF SHOPLIFTERS

Merchants Go to Headquarters
to Identify Property Stolen
From Stores.

WARM PRAISE FOR POLICE

"Flying Squadron" Commended
for Its Work During Holiday
Shopping Season.

It was identification day today at police headquarters.

Representatives of all the larger department stores were there to look over and select their property from among the goods recovered from shoplifters caught within the past week.

The desks of the detective bureau squad room looked like bargain-day counters, and members of the "flying squadron" stood around with smiles of satisfaction while the merchants and their representatives spoke high words of praise for the work they had done.

Nearly 100 Cases.
More than thirty-three arrests have been made, including nearly 100 shoplifting cases during the past week and a half. Goods valued at more than \$1,500 have been recovered, and much more have been protected, according to the merchants, by the ten members of the squad working in conjunction with plain clothes force from headquarters.

"This Christmas season is the safest shopping season we have ever experienced," said Mr. Harding, representing Woodward & Lothrop. "Never in the history of Washington have we had so much protection as the squad which protected Christmas shopping during the past few weeks. Last year it was good. This year it was perfect."

Pullman is Pleased.
Major and Superintendent of Police Raymond W. Pullman, who conceived and worked out the plan under which the stores were protected this year, was present, and the goods were identified today and complimented the squad on the work they had done.

"It is evident from the cases you have made," said the Major, "that the falling of stealing is not confined to any stratum of society. Rich and poor alike are apt to give in to the temptation to 'snitch' something for nothing."

"You have done a splendid job this year, and I have received many words of praise for your work. They were shifted from store to store in such a way that they were not known to would-be offenders, and at the same time knew the habits of shoplifters and the lay of the store in such a way that they were not detected."

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POSTOFFICE CLEAR OF MAIL; ONE DELIVERY ON CHRISTMAS

Washingtonians to Get Packages Tomorrow
If They Arrive by Noon—Out-
going Rush Is Over.

Washingtonians who have Christmas packages coming by parcel post, will get them Christmas Day, if they reach the Washington Postoffice by noon tomorrow.

Mails in the Washington office are "clear." The entire force of clerks and carriers is tackling delayed mails as fast as they come into Union Station, to hustle them out.

So far as mailings in Washington are concerned, the Christmas business is over. Outgoing mails are down to normal, and Postmaster Chance and Superintendent of Mails Haycock are enthusiastic over the success of the mail early campaign here. Washingtonians did mail early.

Two Deliveries Today.
There were two big deliveries of incoming parcel post Christmas mail, by wagon and motor truck, today, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. There will be another such delivery tomorrow, and trucks and carriers will be kept running throughout the day to deliver all Christmas mail that arrives in the Washington office.

The railway mail service is still struggling under handicaps to clear the Christmas mails that have jammed all of the big terminal post-offices of the country.

All of the incoming mails, however, are greatly delayed. They are not coming in very rapidly, but some of them reaching here are from points of congestion in the West. These are being seized upon as fast as they arrive by a big force of men for immediate distribution and delivery.

No Day of Rest Here.
Sunday was no day of rest for the postoffice workers in Washington, though the Capital attempted to aid them by mailing early. A full force was kept on to handle quickly the delayed incoming mails, collectors and others turning in distribution and delivery.

There will be one general delivery of mail in Washington tomorrow, to include everything. Christmas packages, letters and cards. Other deliveries during the day will be only for Christmas parcels, but they will make the holiday a day of toil for postal employees.

Another snow storm in the Great Lakes region and in the Northwest is adding to the troubles of the already overburdened railroads and mail transportation system. Terminals are (Continued on Second Page.)

BOY KIDNAPED BY GYPSIES, HE SAYS

Declares They Stole Him From
Indiana Home Nine
Years Ago.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—A seventeen-year-old boy who declares he has spent the past nine years of his life as a veritable slave of a band of gypsies who kidnaped him from his home in Mitchell, Ind., told the hands of the Arlington police yesterday, and told them a pathetic story of barbarous cruelties to which he said he had been subjected since he was eight years old. He says his name is Leroy Arbuckle.

As a result of his story, told between 10 and 11 o'clock, five members of a tribe of gypsies now camped in the woods near Reisterstown, were locked up. Two of them, James Cooper and James Harrison, are charged by Arbuckle with actually kidnapping him, and the others are declared to be accomplices. They denied the boy's story, but are being held pending receipt of an answer to a telegram to Mr. and Mrs. William Arbuckle in Mitchell, Ind., who, the boy says, are his parents.

Asked For Shelter.
Arbuckle's first moment of freedom in nine years came when he knocked at the door of George Ducker, who lives near the woods where the gypsies are camping. Arising from bed to answer the knock, Ducker found a thin, emaciated youth, shivering in a blue shirt and trousers, shoeless, and with his feet wrapped in burlap sacks. He asked for shelter, and Rucker told him that if he had no matches in his pockets he might sleep in the hay in the barn.

When Ducker went to the barn later in the morning he found the boy buried in the hay, half-frozen and shivering with fear that the gypsies would find him. They had threatened to kill him if he ran away again, he said, and he exhibited a huge scar on his back, which he declared the gypsies had burned with red-hot coals to frighten him into submission. Ducker immediately notified the police, who took the boy to the station house.

Stolen On Way To School.
To the police the boy said he was on his way to school one morning nine years ago in his home town when Cooper and Harrison grabbed him, threw him into a big covered wagon, and gagged him with a handkerchief to stifle his screams. He said they tied his hands and feet and drove off to their camp in a town several miles away. Shortly afterward they started on a trip, taking him along and watching him closely as he could not escape.

The wandering tribe took him through Ohio, Indiana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky, he said. He couldn't remember any more States.

KILLED AT STEEL PLANT

George W. Allen Struck by Piece
of Flying Metal.

While at work at the plant of the Washington Steel and Ordnance Company at Glebeboro Point early today, George W. Allen, thirty-five years old, of 1429 Good Hope road southeast, was hit and fatally wounded by a piece of flying steel from a big steam hammer.

Allen was rushed to Providence Hospital in one of the company's automobiles, but died within a few hours after arriving there. Coroner Nevitt will conduct an investigation.

Allen was not a native of Washington but had lived here practically all his life. He was unmarried and resided with his mother.

WILSON'S NOTE CALLED INSULT BY NORTHCLIFFE

British Statesman's Paper Feels
Charge Message Was
Prompted by Bernstorff.

WOULD SEND ENVOY TO U. S.

London Observer Also Proposes
Peace Conference in Paris.
Must Answer Overtures.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Lord Northcliffe's Weekly Dispatch, the Sunday newspaper which is closest to the new administration in England, today bitterly arraigns President Wilson, declaring his course in sending the peace note "an insult not easily to be condoned when he suggests that Britain and Germany in a general way are fighting for the same cause."

The same newspaper placed big headlines over a New York message attributed to President Wilson's act largely to German Ambassador Bernstorff's clever propaganda work, and commented at length on the failure of the British to cope with this propaganda.

"A Memorable Mistake."
J. L. Garvin in a six-column article in today's Observer calls President Wilson's note "a memorable mistake which jeopardizes all the beneficent possibilities of the role which might have been, and may still be, reserved for the American President at a later stage."

He holds that the entente allies, in reply to President Wilson's note, are bound to vindicate their cause before history, and declares that special measures are required.

"If Viscount Bryce is not available to specially represent us in the United States," says the paper, "why should not Lord Rosebery be asked? Would it not be possible for these two to go together? Perhaps the best choice would be Mr. Asquith. If such an appointment were made the person chosen ought to be of the highest political rank and intellectual distinction."

Demands an Answer.
The Observer adds:
"President Wilson's sequence of allied to define their terms and objects must be very courteously received, and demands a reasoned answer. While it might be explained to the President that in the very nature of the case no speedy reply could be given to so considerable a request as a full statement of the terms of the allies, the latter might do worse, in our opinion, than appoint a special body sitting in Paris to go into the question."

VICTORY FOR WILSON SEEN
Belief Grows Among Diplomats
Overtures Will Be Successful.

In spite of editorial blasts from abroad, supplemented by guarded expressions of annoyance in entente quarters here, belief is growing in embassy and official circles that President Wilson's overtures to the belligerent nations are destined to be successful.

It is believed that no less than a frank expression in reply to his communication on the subject of the peace conference the way will be opened. It is declared, to further and more definite negotiations.

Administration leaders are not inclined to be overconcerned about the editorial attitude of the English press. It is felt here that an accurate perspective is impossible on the reception of the President's note until it has reached the public and sufficient time has been given for thorough digestion.

Await Official Views.
In the meantime, interchange of official views between the entente nations and among the Teutonic powers must be awaited.

A pretty fair indication of how the peace wind is blowing is expected when the entente allies send their reply to their enemies' peace proposal—looked for in about ten days.

But it is pointed out that the tone of the entente reply will necessarily be different from the response to the President's communication. No word has been received here as to when this response will come.

It is believed the first reply will come from the Teutonic allies.

Diplomats Discuss Issue.
While attention is directed toward England for the next move in the intricate game of peace, there continues to be vast discussion of the subject in embassy circles here.

In this connection the South American ministers believe the President has given tremendous impetus to peace activity.

"The United States' note was timely," one of the most prominent South Americans declared. "It was put forth when the people of belligerent countries have their hearts and minds on peace more than at any time in the last two years."

"By calling for a statement of objectives from both sides, the President is bound to get the fullest and frankest expressions developed thus far in the struggle."

"By asking for terms the President automatically has assumed very much the position of mediator. Any reply sent to him will necessarily mean continuation of the cornered discussion and if the replies from the two belligerent groups square in any particular whatever, it will result in encouraging further efforts."

In the light of the President's ap-